



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

clm
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,463	03/10/2004	Kyoung-Hwan Yeo	5649-1238	4432
20792 7590 11/15/2007 MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627			EXAMINER STARK, JARRETT J	
			ART UNIT 2823	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/797,463	Applicant(s) YEO ET AL.	
	Examiner Jarrett J. Stark	Art Unit 2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/29/2007 has been entered.

Priority

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

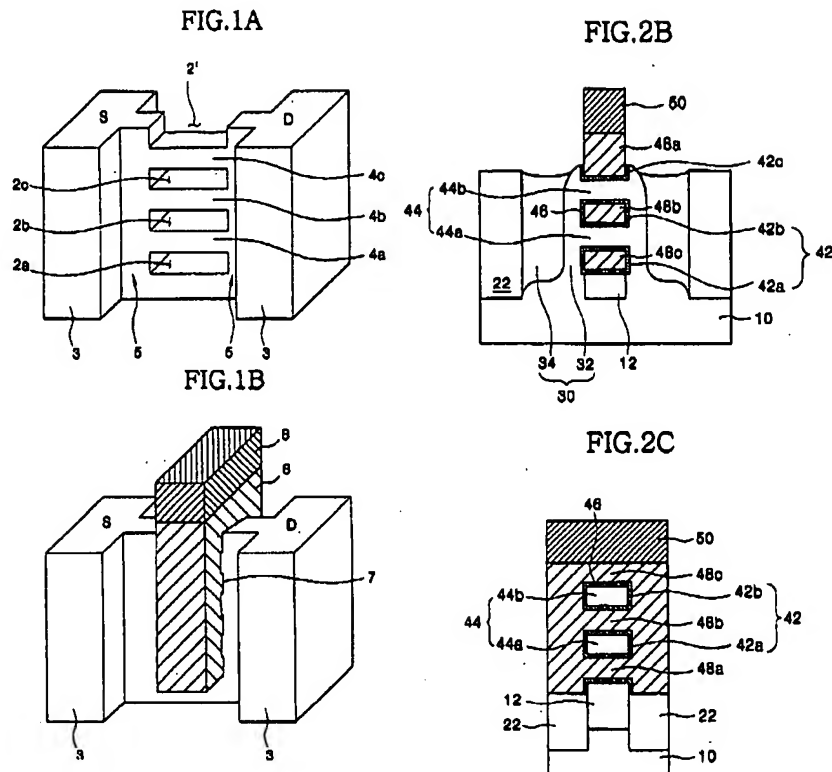
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al.
(US 7,002,207).



Regarding claims 12 - 30, Kim et al. 3 discloses a method of forming a unit cell of a metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) transistor, comprising:

forming a MOS transistor on an integrated circuit substrate including an isolation layer and an active region higher than the isolation layer, the MOS transistor having a source region and a drain region on the isolation layer, and a plurality of gates on the active region, the plurality of gates being stacked between the source region and the drain region (Kim, Figures 1A, 1B, 2B and 2C);

forming a horizontal channel between the source and drain regions, the horizontal channel including at least two horizontal channel regions formed in spaced apart patterns, wherein the source and drain regions are vertically formed to cover the sides of the active region in other patterns adjacent to sides of the spaced apart patterns (Kim, Figures 1A and 1B);

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

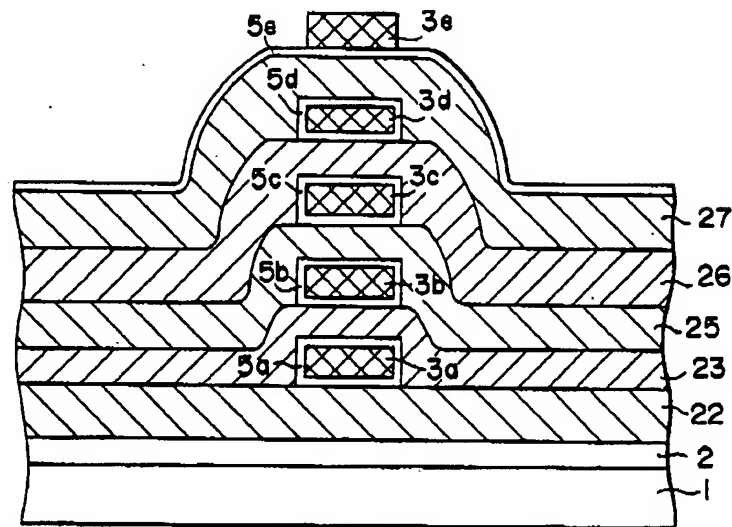
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12- 19 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maegawa (US 5,583,362).

FIG. 30

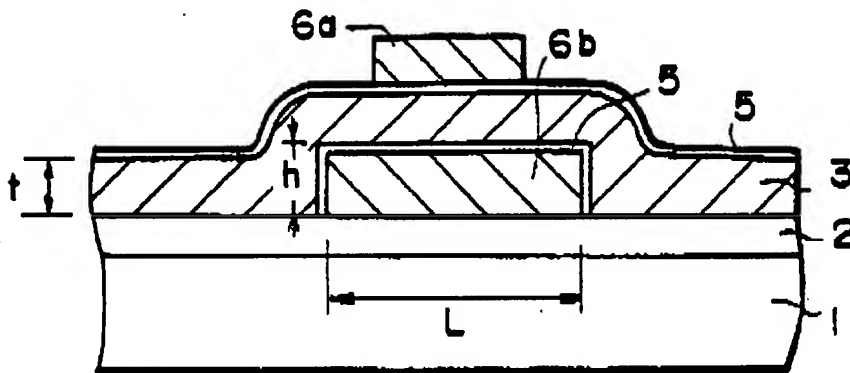


Regarding claims 12 and 30, Maegawa discloses a method of forming a unit cell of a metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) transistor, comprising:

forming a MOS transistor on an integrated circuit substrate including an isolation layer (fig. 30 layer 2) and an active region higher than the isolation layer (Fig. 30, layers 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e,...), the MOS transistor having a source region and a drain region (not shown due the cross-sectional view of figure 30, however source and drains are inherently required to be adjacent either side of each channel. A channel can not function without a source and drain) on the isolation layer, and a plurality of gates on the active region, the plurality of gates being stacked (Fig. 30, layers 22, 23, 25, 26, 27,...) between the source region ant the drain region (not shown due the cross-sectional view of figure 30, however source and drains are inherently required to be adjacent either side of each channel. A channel can not function without a source and drain);

forming a horizontal channel between the source and drain regions, the horizontal channel including at least two horizontal channel regions formed in spaced apart patterns (Fig. 30), wherein the source and drain regions are vertically formed to cover the sides of the active region in other patterns adjacent to sides of the spaced apart patterns (not shown due the cross-sectional view of figure 30, however source and drains are inherently required to be adjacent either side of each channel. A channel can not function without a source and drain)

FIG. 15



Regarding claim 13, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 12, wherein forming the at least two spaced apart horizontal channel region comprises: forming an active region on the integrated circuit substrate; and forming at least one epitaxial pattern on the active region and spaced apart from the active region (Col. 5 lines 5-20).

Regarding claims 14 & 15, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 13, wherein forming the at least one epitaxial pattern comprises forming first and second epitaxial patterns, the second epitaxial pattern being on the first epitaxial pattern and spaced apart from the first epitaxial pattern, the method further comprising: forming a mask pattern on the second epitaxial pattern (Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9 - patterned by photolithography will inherently involve masks).

Regarding claim 16, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 12, wherein forming the source and drain regions comprises forming vertical source and drain regions, the vertical source region being on a first side of the horizontal channel region and the vertical drain region being on a second side of the horizontal channel region and spaced apart from the vertical source region (Fig 15 & Col. 6 lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 17, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 16, further comprising: forming a gate pattern (Fig 30-[26]) on the horizontal channel (Fig 30-[3c]) and between the at least two spaced apart horizontal channel regions (Fig 30-[3c and 3d]); and forming a gate insulation layer (Fig 30-[5c and 5d]) between the gate pattern and the at least two spaced apart horizontal channel regions.

Regarding claim 18, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 17, further comprising:

forming a first insulation pattern (Fig 15. – insulation layers [2] and/or [5])
between the source and drain electrodes and the integrated circuit substrate and
between the gate pattern and the integrated circuit substrate.

Regarding claim 19, Maegawa discloses the method of claim 18, further
comprising: forming a mask pattern on the horizontal channel, wherein the gate pattern
extends between an upper channel region of the at least two spaced apart horizontal
channel regions and the mask pattern (Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9
- patterned by photolithography will inherently involve masks).3

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

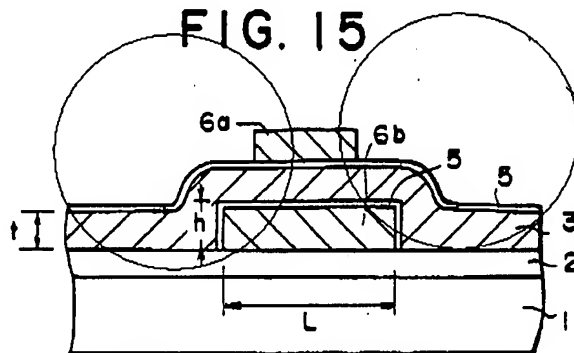
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20 –29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Maegawa (US 5,583,362) as applied in claim 19 above and in further view of Nakajima
(US 6,420,758).

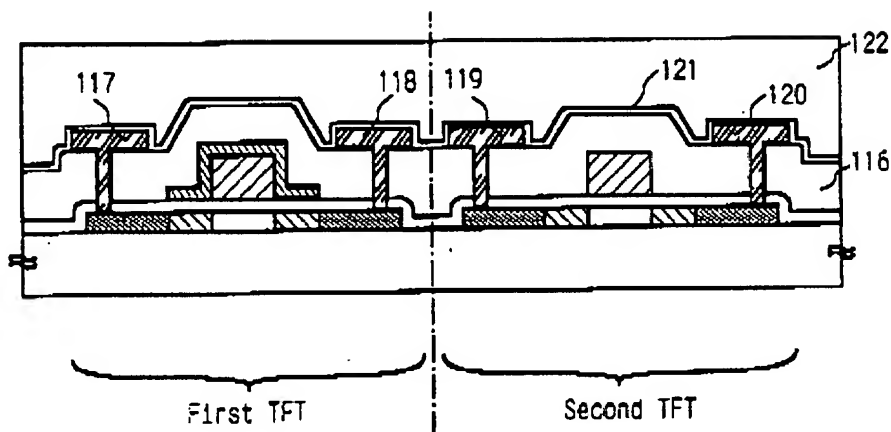
Regarding claim 20, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of
claim 19, further comprising: forming a second insulation pattern (Fig. 15 – [5]) on the
horizontal channel and the vertical source and drain regions (Fig. 15 – [3] – source and

drain regions left and right of gate 6a), wherein the second insulation pattern defines a gate opening on the horizontal channel (Fig. 15 – circled by Examiner for clarity), wherein the gate pattern is provided in the gate opening and



Maegawa does not explicitly disclose wherein the source and drain electrodes extend through the second insulation pattern and are connected to the vertical source drain regions. It is however notoriously well known extend the source and drain electrodes through the insulation pattern to make electrical contact with the source and drain electrodes. An example of this is shown by Nakajima in Figure 2E below. The figure shows a commonly used method of connecting source and drain electrodes to the source and drain trough an insulating layer.

FIG. 2E



It would have been within the scope of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Maegawa and Nakajima to enable the source/drain electrode formation step of Maegawa to be performed according to the teachings of Nakajima because one of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to look to alternative suitable methods of performing the disclosed source/drain electrode formation step of Maegawa and art recognized suitability for an intended purpose has been recognized to be motivation to combine. MPEP 2144.07.

Regarding claim 21, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 20, further comprising: forming a third insulation pattern on the second insulation pattern and the gate pattern, wherein the source and drain electrodes extended through the third insulation pattern (Nakajima, layer [116]) and the second insulation pattern and are connected to the vertical source and drain regions.

Regarding claim 22, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 21, wherein an upper surface of the first insulation pattern is higher relative to a lower surface of the gate pattern. (Maegawa, Fig. 15 first insulating layer [5] is above lower gate pattern [6b])

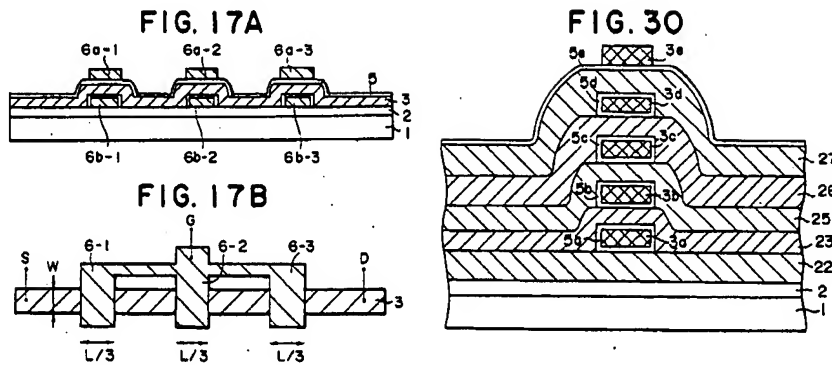
Regarding claim 23, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses a method of fabricating a transistor comprising:

forming a trench region on an integrated circuit substrate to define an active region (Maegawa, Fig. 1A);

forming a stacked structure including at least one set of first epitaxial patterns and second epitaxial patterns on the active region (Maegawa, Fig. 30);

forming a first insulation pattern on a floor of the trench (Maegawa, Fig. 1B);;
growing a third epitaxial layer on sidewalls of at least one set of first and second epitaxial patterns(Maegawa, Fig. 1A);

forming a second insulation pattern on a surface of the integrated circuit substrate, the second insulation pattern defining a gate opening that exposes at least a portion of the third epitaxial layer (Figs 17A-B & 30);



removing the third epitaxial layer in the gate opening to expose the set of at least one first and second epitaxial patterns (Maegawa, Figs 17A-B & 30);

selectively etching the first epitaxial patterns of the set of at least one first and second epitaxial patterns to form a horizontal channel region having a plurality of spaced apart channel layers (Maegawa, Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9);

forming a gate oxide layer on a surface of channel layers (Maegawa, layer [5]);

forming a gate pattern on the horizontal channel and in gap regions between the channel layers and the gate opening (Maegawa, Figs 17A-B & 30); and

forming source and drain electrodes penetrating the second insulation pattern to be connected to the third epitaxial layer (Nakajima, Figure 2E).

Regarding claim 24, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein forming the trench and a stacked structure further comprises: alternately stacking sets of first and second epitaxial layers on the integrated circuit substrate; and patterning the sets of the first and second epitaxial layers and the

integrated circuit substrate to form a trench, and sets of the first and second epitaxial patterns (Maegawa, Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9 & Figs 17A-B & 30).

Regarding claim 25, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein the first and third epitaxial layers comprise silicon and wherein the second epitaxial layer comprises silicon germanium.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the second epitaxial layer of silicon germanium, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the base of its suitability, for its intended use involves only ordinary skill in the art. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Regarding claim 26, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein an upper surface of the first insulation pattern is formed lower relative to the first epitaxial layer (Maegawa, Fig. 15 first insulating layer [5] is above lower gate pattern [6b]).

Regarding claim 27, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein forming the second insulation pattern is preceded by: forming an etch stop layer conformally on a resultant structure including the third epitaxial layer

(Maegawa, Figs 30 shows that the top epitaxial layer is patterned with out affecting the insulating layer directly below it, therefore obviously indicating that the insulating layer is an etch stop), wherein forming the gate opening comprises sequentially patterning the second insulation pattern and the etch stop layer and wherein the source and drain electrodes penetrate the etch stop layer (Nakajima, Figure 2E) to be connected to the third epitaxial layer (Maegawa, Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9).

Regarding claim 28, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein forming the second insulation pattern is preceded by: implanting impurities in the first and second epitaxial layers to form channel doped layers; and implanting impurities into the third epitaxial layer to form source and drain regions (Maegawa, Fig 15 & Col. 6 lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 29, Maegawa in view of Nakajima discloses the method of claim 23, wherein forming the stacking structure of the first and second epitaxial patterns further comprises forming a mask pattern at the upper most layer, and wherein the first and second epitaxial patterns are alternately stacked (Maegawa, Col. 5 lines 5-20 & Col. 1 line 65 → Col. 2 line 9 – photolithography is used to pattern the repeated layers shown in Figs 17A-B & 30, there for is obvious that the upper most layer will have a mask to form the pattern).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jarrett J. Stark whose telephone number is (571) 272-6005. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JJS
November 1, 2007

Jarrett J Stark
Examiner
Art Unit 2823


MICHELLE ESTRADA
PRIMARY EXAMINER